

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF
THE HONORABLE JOE GOETHALS
FROM THE SAN MATEO CITY
COUNCIL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 5, 2022

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend and colleague, Councilman Joe Goethals, upon his departure from the San Mateo City Council after nine years. He began his public service on the San Mateo Public Works Commission and as a Director on the Peninsula Health Care District Board. During his time on the council, he served on the Emergency Services Council, the Grand Boulevard Task Force, Peninsula Clean Energy, the San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department board, and the San Mateo County pre-Hospital Emergency Medical Services Group. He served as Mayor in 2019.

When he first ran for city council in 2013, he noted that he was a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, and that by that time he had already handled over 50 cases and appeared in court in 25 jury trials involving such violent crimes as murder, rape and kidnapping. Since then, he's worked in the offices of both the Alameda and San Mateo County District Attorneys.

Today, Joe is in private practice as a trial attorney handling criminal defense, murder, sexual assault, wrongful death and personal injury cases. As a city councilman, prosecutor and defense counsel, Joe sees all sides of the criminal justice system.

We live in special times when people question whether our nation will splinter and whether we can continue to live under one body of law. I want to take a moment to speak about Joe Goethals the attorney because from this discipline, combined with public office, he created an unusually authoritative perspective on public policy.

In a 2020 Facebook post, he reposted an image of a man with a ball and chain and the word "addiction" on the ball, with the man reaching for a key that had "hope" as its name. In 2021, as protests broke out throughout the country Joe, his colleagues, and the Board of Supervisors established a pilot program teaming mental health professionals with police officers to help people in crisis. Joe noted at the time, "More than half of the county jail are individuals suffering from some form of mental health issues. Interventions like this I support very much because (mental) health professionals are a proven solution to reducing incarceration in favor of treatment and diversion." His validation, coming from both a seasoned prosecutor and defense attorney, meant that residents of San Mateo could have an extra measure of assurance that public safety was enhanced by mental health interventions. To borrow a concept from our shared faith, Joe was teaching from the catechism of justice.

As a councilmember, Joe Goethals was on the dais as San Mateo tackled some of its most difficult problems. The city has since initiated major public works projects to fix a flooding problem in the North Shoreview neighborhood, a major intersection problem at El Camino and Highway 92, and a significant deficiency in the city's sewage treatment system.

During Joe's years on the council, thousands of new housing units were created, and the city cooperated with the county to establish at least two hotels as new shelters for the homeless. Joe and his colleagues spurred businesses towards financial health despite the pandemic by approving outdoor dining downtown.

Born and raised in San Mateo, Joe grew up along Aragon Boulevard as part of a family of five children. He was outstanding in Little League and coached right through law school. For first through eighth grade, he attended St. Matthew's Catholic School, later moving to St. Ignatius College Preparatory High School in San Francisco, and ultimately attending Santa Clara University for both undergraduate and law school. Upon graduation with an undergraduate degree in Combined Sciences with an emphasis in microbiology, he was honored with the Santa Clara University Richard J. Riordan Award for Public Service. He actually has two graduate degrees, having attained a Master's in Public Health from San Jose State University before his J.D. degree. He served for five years in public health after his undergraduate studies. As a law student, he won the Honors Moot Court competition and a scholarship to Oxford University for the summer.

Joe and his wife, Sharon, have three girls Samantha, Ellie, and Charlotte. Although they have lived in different locations in recent years, they have always called San Mateo home.

It is time to bid adieu to a passionate advocate for sound government. America lost a champion Little Leaguer when Joe was forced to retire from coaching. It's losing a champion public policymaker as he steps away from elective office, hopefully for only a short time. Now, his family will regain the full-time attention of a loving father and husband. Life is both complete and expanding its joys for Joe Goethals, the boy from Aragon Boulevard who swung for the bleachers and hit a grand slam.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 7

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, Christopher Koos, of Illinois, Samuel E. Lathem, of Delaware, and Robin Lee Wiessmann, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Sue Ellen Moore, of Washington, and Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, and Diane Susan Kaplan, of Alaska, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 3386, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally, S. 4824, to provide for proper oversight of North Korea policy, S. 4064, to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports, S. 4509, to provide for security in the Black Sea region, S. 4996, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to modify the establishment of a coordinator for detained ISIS members and relevant displaced populations in Syria, S. 4955, to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, S. Con. Res. 47, commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, S. Con. Res. 16, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort, S. Res. 713, recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide, S. Res. 472, reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations, S. Res. 730, remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks, S. Res. 322, reaffirming the alliance between the United States and Bulgaria, congratulating Bulgaria on its July 11, 2021 parliamentary elections, and calling for continued progress in Bulgaria towards combating corruption, respecting the freedom of the press, and protecting minority rights, S. Res. 650, recognizing May 28 as "World Hunger Day", that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger

on World Hunger Day, H.R. 7240, to reauthorize the READ Act, the nominations of Joey R. Hood, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Lucy Tamlyn, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jessica Davis Ba, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, and Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, all of the Department of State, and other pending calendar business.

S-116

2:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine the Civil Society Campaign to improve the lethality and survivability of the Ukrainian military.

SD-562

DECEMBER 8

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider the nominations of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western

District of Virginia, Todd E. Edelman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Myong J. Joun, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, and Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

SH-216

11 a.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on demining Ukraine.

WEBEX

3:30 p.m.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To receive a briefing on Russia's infrastructure terrorists.

WEBEX

DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the impact of plastic use and identifying solutions for reducing plastic waste.

SD-406

POSTPONEMENTS

DECEMBER 7

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Karen Sasahara, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the State of Kuwait, Richard Mills, Jr., of Georgia, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and Kathleen A. FitzGibbon, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Niger, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations.

SD-419

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine personnel vetting modernization.

SH-216